

WAR ON CHRISTMAS-A WITNESSING WINDFALL

John 1:6-8 December 11, 2005

Sermon Notes:

Read American Family Association piece on Dodgeville school...

A Christmas Witch in Wisconsin Public School

Wisconsin Elementary School Changes "Silent Night" to "Cold in the Night" While Decorating For A Christmas Witch!

Dear Michael,

In Dodgeville, Wisconsin, Ridgeway Elementary School's "winter program" has changed the name of "Silent Night" to "Cold in the Night." Sung to the tune of "Silent Night," the lyrics include: "Cold in the night, no one in sight, winter winds whirl and bite, how I wish I were happy and warm, safe with my family out of the storm."

The "winter program" included decorating classrooms with Santa Claus, Kwanza symbols, Menorahs, and **Labafana--a Christmas witch!**

Also in Wisconsin, the Glendale-River Hills School District has banned every Christmas song which has any Christian "motive or theme." But while banning Christian Christmas songs, the district permits secular holiday songs as well as songs celebrating Hanukkah. In defending this policy, Frances Smith, the district administrator, says that the Hanukkah songs are more cultural than spiritual.

What these schools are doing to our children is not educating, but indoctrinating! And they are using Christmas as an excuse. Following the lead of the National Educational Association, Wisconsin educational leaders preach tolerance and diversity while being highly intolerant! Most of the residents of Wisconsin are tolerant, but not their educational leaders.

Banning nativity scenes. Banning Christmas songs in school. Banning Christmas in advertising. Calling a Christmas tree a "holiday" tree. Calling a Christmas parade a holiday parade. Refusing to mention the Reason for the season. **It is time to take a stand for our children, our families, our faith and our freedom!**

Educational leaders in your state could be the next officials to join this anti-Christian bigotry parade.

I urge you to email Wisconsin Governor Gov. Jim Doyle and Wisconsin State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster and ask them to stop this intolerant anti-Christian bigotry.

[Click Here to Send Your Letter Now!](#)

Very important! Please forward this to your family and friends. They need to be aware of this anti-Christian bigotry.

Thanks for caring enough to get involved.

Sincerely,

Don

Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman
American Family Association

P.S. Please forward this e-mail message to your family and friends!

1. **War on Christmas:** Ridgeway elementary school "bans" Christmas. Glendale-River Hills bans Christmas. "Holiday Trees" "Holiday Presents" "Holiday Programs." Georgia has done it statewide...in Georgia there is a gag order on any expression of Christ in Christmas in the public schools. Even a pin on a teacher's lapel. The very God who has blessed and inspired this great nation is being shut out. Freedom of religion has become freedom from religion. This list of changes we have seen in the past 20 years

could go on and on. I don't think that much of this is driven by offended Jews or Muslims...in fact many Jews are speaking out boldly about allowing Christians to express their beliefs in public life...like say Merry Christmas w/out fear of losing their teaching job. They would also like to be able to say "Happy Hannukah" as well. Many who protest the loudest are those who grew up in church and rejected Jesus and don't believe in Him like their forefathers did. There is no one more hard than a person that has heard the gospel and rejected the Savior. Now I want to be clear that I don't want anyone to be forced to become a Christian by our government...I just am sad that our great foundational Judeo-Christian heritage is being banned from public recognition.

2. **Negative Observations:** times are changing, our public life is a reflection of who we are, many churches are empty and closing, only 4% of teenagers claim to be Christian... these are sad and dark times for our nation. Our nation is declining fast... the end result is broken homes, suicide, drug use, alcoholism, gluttony, disease, weakness, vulnerability, laziness, despair, selfishness, lack of love, harness of heart, stress and strife...all of which are epidemic today.
3. **Positive Observations:** those who are left in the churches may be more sincere and real than many who used to attend (my childhood observations that the same crowd on Sunday morning was a totally different crowd during the work week...because church was culturally popular), light shines much brighter in the darkness, there has never been a greater time to witness for Jesus because most people don't know Him.
4. **General Observations:** times are much like they were at the time of the birth of Christ, society was secular or pagan, "Biblical" religion was totally out of touch with God, religious leaders did more to prevent the work of the Holy Spirit than help it...this is the world John witnessed to.
5. John 1:6-8: ***There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.*** John was a witness! He had a message from God and he spoke it. People were hungry to hear about the coming Messiah. He called Jesus the light. So many people are in darkness today and need light. Jesus is the light of the world...he forgives sins, he changes lives, he opens up heaven and John was his witness. It was as simple as that...He told people about the Savior, he helped people prepare for His coming.
6. **Notice:** John did not witness for the church, the temple or even for a certain sect...he pointed people to Jesus. If you are here to build up this church, you are wasting your time. If you are here trying to make people into Lutherans, you are wasting your time. If you are here trying to get people to join our AFLC denomination, you are wasting your time. The purpose of our church and denomination is not to witness about itself. Jesus is the light...we tell people about Him. The church is not the light...Jesus is the light. As we shine for Jesus...then we become His lights in the dark world.
7. **Witnessing:** has there ever been a better time to witness for Jesus. It is really an exciting time to be alive. 30 years ago you could have said Merry Christmas and it would have been a hackneyed expression. Today Merry Christmas means something. Today, going to worship in church means something...it is for those who are serious. Today, telling the

Christmas story about the King of Kings born in the Bethlehem stable means something...it has bite, it has flavor, it penetrates. To tell people about the child born to die on the cross for our sins means something.

8. **Deceptive Angels of Light:** People are desperately hungry for spiritual food. 50 years of evolution and atheism have made people desperately hungry in their souls. Spiritual teaching is a big business today. Yesterday someone called and told me to turn on public TV...a psychologist and philosopher was "preaching" about the scientific fact that some great intelligent being is at the root of who we are. He was very interesting to listen to. But if you listen to his conclusions they are deceptive. He concludes that we are all possessed with divinity. He concludes that we can "visualize" the world into existence. For example, if we perceive that the world is a hard, cold, cruel place, that is what it will become for us. If we perceive that the world is a warm, wonderful, caring place, that is what it will become for us....and that we have the power within us as we connect with this great universal mind to change the world. Now I want to say right away that common sense tells us that our attitude does make a difference in our lives. If your attitude stinks, people won't like you, you may lose your job, etc. But if you take that thinking too far we ultimately become Gods that literally create reality. This is nothing new, it is the basis of every religion of the world except true Christianity...every one working to become gods and earn their place in heaven. These teachings are desirable to many people for several reasons: 1) We can create our own definitions of right and wrong. 2) There is no sin to deal with. 3) There is no need to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.
9. **The great offence:** the Bible tells us that "without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin." Jesus had to live the perfect life we could not live. Jesus had to die on the cross of Calvary to pay the eternal hell for our sins that we deserved. God is Holy, Holy, Holy...He doesn't grade on a curve. We do not need improvement, we need pardon. We need the judge of the universe to cancel our debt to Him, paid in full by faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. This is an offence to the proud. It is foolishness to the intellectuals. But for us who are being saved it is the power of God, it is our blessed assurance, it is our peace. Any other message that bypasses the cross is a deception and millions are being lead astray...especially in the West.
10. **Christmas carols:** I think that is why people are so offended by Christmas carols...they are so clear in their message. That is why there is a war on Christmas...listen to the words: *Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." ...Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord; Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'Incarnate Deity, Pleased as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Immanuel... Hail, the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."* What a witnessing tool!

11. **Other witnessing tools:** John was a witness for Jesus. There are so many ways to witness during Christmas. Let me give you a few ideas:
 - Host a party in your home and sing Christmas carols.
 - Invite people over who are neglected: the poor, the unemployed, youth from broken homes...share your love for Jesus with them by treating them special.
 - Use your Christmas cards and letters to witness for Jesus. We try to do that every year. Many people will listen at this time of year.
 - Decorate with a theme...this year we put up a lighted cross outside our house to remind people that Jesus was born to die.
 - Bring people with you to Christmas services: some will come to church at Christmas that never come at any other time. They need a personal invitation. Over 2,000 people in Mineral Point alone don't go to church regularly, there are many to choose from!
12. **Shine for Jesus!** Matthew 5:14-16 "*You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.*"
13. **What does the future hold?** Will all schools in Wisconsin be forced to ban the Christian part of Christmas? Will more people lose their jobs if they carry a Bible, say "Merry Christmas" or witness for Jesus? Will pastors and churches be allowed to preach about sin in the future if it offends people? Will there be persecution for people who are bold witnesses? I don't know...but I do know that the darker it gets, the brighter the light shines. The more people there are that hate the cross, the more powerful the cross on the steeple speaks. The more we see pretenders leave the church the more alive those who remain will be and the more God will be able to work with power through a purer church.
14. **There has never in hundreds of years been a more exiting time to be a Christian witness as today.** John was a witness. He preached repentance and he preached Christ for 6 months until the political leaders could not take it any more and they had him arrested and put to death. He was a martyr...he was a witness... Some here today may have to give their life for Jesus. We all can dedicate our lives to being His witness.
15. **Jesus died for us.** How can we help but be His witnesses. He died for us. He went to the cross for us. We have met Him as our personal Lord and Savior. He has radically changed our lives. He is coming again to usher in His kingdom and take us home. I'm proud to be his witness...I trust that you are too. There may be a war on Christmas in the United States but the more they kick Jesus out of public life, the louder we who are left that believe in him will proclaim His name...even if it costs us our job, customers for our business or even our lives...because we love Him too much to remain silent.
16. **Call to salvation:** perhaps today you can't say for certain that you really know Jesus personally. Today is the day to repent of your sin, tell Him that you believe in Him as your Savior and Lord and receive Him in to your heart. Then, as you experience His salvation, you will become thrilled to be His witness too.
17. **Fighting the war on Christmas:** there is really only one way to fight the war on Christmas...with faith, hope and love...with celebrations of great joy that will drive the

pagans to jealousy, with Christmas carols sung from our own lips, with hospitality, with worship, witnessing for Jesus in any and every beautiful way that comes to mind.

18. Let's pray...